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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: )  
ICHIKAWA et al. ) Confirmation No. 4966  
Serial No.: 10/788,425 ) Examiner: M. Charioui  
Filed: March 1, 2004 ) Art Unit: 2857  
For: VEHICLE TRAVELING SPEED )  
PATTERN ESTIMATION DEVICE/ )  
METHOD )

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The rejection of all of pending claims 1-6 for obviousness over Kuroda et al. in view of Kolls, as set forth in the Final Rejection, is respectfully traversed. In each of the various embodiments taught by Kuroda et al. in the "Summary of the Invention", a route to a destination is divided into a plurality of sections and a vehicle speed pattern is estimated "for each of the plurality of sections on the basis of the road condition driving history," quoting from column 1, lines 51 and 52. Also see column 1, lines 65 and 66, column 2, lines 14-17 and column 2, lines 30-31.

The Examiner's comments in paragraph 2 of the Office Action notwithstanding, only a single driving pattern is estimated for each section of the route to the destination. See, for example, the description of the preferred embodiment at column 7, lines 10-34. As taught at column 7, lines 48-65 Fig. 9C represents a graph of the calculated necessary power output for the driving speed pattern of Fig. 9B. Subsequent to